Suspension of World Bank loan to Haryana for power sector reforms

*354. SHRI GULAM NABI AZAD : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether World Bank has suspended payment of Rs. 24,000 crore loan to Haryana for power sector reforms as reported in the Indian Express dated the 9th March, 2000;

(b) if so, whether it has also threatened to initiate legal action against the electricity utilities in the State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR) : (a) the World Bank approved a loan of US $ 60 million to the Haryana Power Sector Restructuring Project in January, 1998. In December 1999, the Bank stopped making any reimbursement or payments under any withdrawal application from the loan account.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Provision of Rural Phone Services by upgradation of technology

*355. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken for providing Rural Phone Services on priority basis by upgradation of technology; and

(b) the security deposits required for a village public telephone ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) Capacity of the existing exchanges is being expanded and new electronic exchanges are being opened in a planned manner to provide telephones in rural areas. For public telephones in the remaining villages, the following technologies will be used :

— Land Lines upto a distance of about 5 Kms. from telephone exchanges;

— Wireless in Local Loop (WLL);

— CDOT/PMP; and

— Satellite for remote and far-flung areas;